

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/099 W

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R 270618Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7350

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USDEL MTN GENEVAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 0619

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIA AND MFA

REF: STATE 015240 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED REPORT THAT GOA CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL FROM MFA WITH FRANK CRAWFORD, CHIEF, GATT SECTION, DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE ON JANUARY 27. CRAWFORD SAID ALTHOUGH WITHDRAWAL HAS BEEN OPTION FOR SOME TIME, SO FAR AS HE AWARE NO SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO DO SO WAS BEFORE THE NEW GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. CRAWFORD SAID THAT THERE RECENTLY HAD BEEN SOME "ROUGH DECISIONS" IN TSB ON AUSTRALIAN CASES, PARTICULARLY
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INVOLVING SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINES. HE ASSERTED

THESE HAD BEEN MADE WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN ARGUMENTS AND COMPLAINED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE ONE RULE FOR CONTRIES WHICH WERE MEMBERS OF TSB AND ANOTHER FOR THOSE LIKE AUSTRALIA WHO WERE NOT. INCOMING GOVERNMENT THEREFORE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE CAREFUL LOOK AT MFA, BUT TILL NOW HAD NOT HAD TIME TO DO SO, OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES TAKING PRIORITY AT MOMENT. WITHDRAWAL WAS ALWAYS ONE OPTION.

3. DRAWING ON PARA 2 REFTEL EMBASSY OFFICER IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION CONVEYED US POSITION ONMFA. CRAWFORD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, OBSERVING THAT GOA WAS AWARE OF OUR VIEWS AND TOOK THEM INTO ACCOUNT.

4. COMMENT: CRAWFORD, ALTHOUGH NOT AT MOST SENIOR LEVELS OF DOT, IS WELL-INFORMED, EXPERIENCED AND OUTSPOKEN. WE BELIEVE THAT IF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM MFA HAD BEEN MADE TO NEW GOVERNMENT HE WOULD KNOW ABOUT IT AND WOULD HAVE TOLD US. NEVERTHELESS WE WILL HAVE A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN NEAR FUTURE FOR HIGHER LEVEL CONTACT IN DOT (RETURN OF E/C COUNSELLOR, ARRIVAL OF NEW AMBASSADOR) AND WILL TAKE THESE OCCASIONS TO EXPLORE MATTER FURTHER AND TO IMPRESS ON AUSTRALIANS IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO MFA.
PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXTILES, WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, TRADE AGREEMENTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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